

November 24, 1999

The first draft

I began composing this Christmas letter about a week before Thanksgiving. At that time I was going to inform you about the move that Chris and I were going to make in December and comment of life in the "Big D". I also wanted to discuss Chris' frustration with traveling so often and his desire to switch jobs in order to spend more time in Dallas. It amazes me how much one weekend can change a Christmas letter!

Friday, November 19, 1999

This particular weekend Chris and I were in Austin to attend the UT Madrigal Dinner. Before he boarded a plane in San Francisco, he let me know we had several things to discuss. It turns out that Chris, along with 6 co-workers, has designs to start an Internet/eCommerce company in Austin. Chris will quit CBSI on December 17th, take a few weeks off and then move to Austin to join the group and start this company. I, on the other hand, will remain in Dallas and continue working for Arthur Andersen for at least six months. Chris is really excited about this opportunity and after hearing the business plan, I think that they have a very good chance of making it. Let's all say some prayers and cross our fingers!

Saturday, November 20, 1999

This is the night we were going to attend the UT Madrigal Dinner. The last thing I expected that night was a marriage proposal! After almost 4 years of dating, Chris popped the big question. I will let Chris tell the story.....

"Alyssa and I went to Austin this past weekend to catch up with some friends and go to UT's Madrigal Dinner. This is a 4 course dinner with a medieval theme and a play going on during dinner. While they are serving the guests, the actors and entertainment mingle, sing songs, etc. for the guests. We were sitting with a friend of ours who played the King last year. The point of all that being, during the serving of the main course, I had some of the cast and footmen try to strike a deal with the old King for Alyssa. One of them won, and when he tried to carry her off, I pleaded with the King not to let her be taken. He said, a deal's a deal, and the only way around it would have been if she were married. Of course, at this point, Alyssa is ready to be carried off and tells everyone that, no, she isn't married. When she looked back, I had the ring waiting for her. She was actually speechless for about 30 seconds. It turns out that word of the proposal had gotten out, and pretty much the entire cast, plus all the wenches and footmen were watching. Plus, they had a spotlight on us the whole time. We had other guests congratulating us for the rest of the evening. I thought it worked out really well, but I still can't believe I went through with it. Someone from the production crew videotaped the entire thing, so we're hoping to get a copy of it..."

Others possibly on the move

Well, Mom received a phone message from Bryan several weeks ago indicating that he had "news". We've come to find out that there is an 85% chance that Bryan and Lorena will be moving back to Austin before next school year! The professor under whom Lorena was going to study for her Ph.D. decided to take a 2-year sabbatical. It looks like she will be able to attend the University of Texas to obtain her degree. We are all very excited to once again have them much closer by!

Mom and Dad making beautiful music together...

My parents are doing well and as busy as ever. While everyone else is counting down the days to the Millennium, my Mom counts down the days to her retirement (I think she has it down to the minute!) Her new business the Quilt Topper is really taking shape. She has this massive machine that has overtaken what used to be my room. She works on her quilts in between teaching and volunteering activities. She is really looking forward to the additional time she will have. My father has been extremely busy at work protecting his employer from the much-feared Y2K bug! He has also been helping my Great Uncle Walter wire his new house. Apparently, the stereo system has just been installed in the "Great Room" and sounds amazing! Dad said that Walter and his wife, Barbara, danced all night!

Things will definitely be busy this coming year with a wedding to plan! As I write this, I am still in shock (it's only been a few days). I hope that all your family is doing well and that 1999 has been a year full of blessings for you. I wish you a very happy holiday and many more blessings for the New Year. Take good care of your self and please keep in touch.